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## Rev. Colette Rice, Executive Pastor

**CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK. Bible Study for January 25, 2017**

**Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Pt. 2**

**The Book of Galatians**

**Paul attempting to spread the Gospel**

* Galatians exhibits Paul at his angriest, as he risked the good favor of the converts in those churches to make sure they were on the path of truth and not led off into deception.
* The message of the kingdom was presented by Peter and the rest of the Twelve in the first chapters of Acts, offering Christ to the Jews.
* There were Jews who would not receive the simple message of grace and who tried to mix it with the Law. These people tend to be called “Judaizers.”
* They taught that a person was saved by faith and by keeping the Law, and that the believer was sanctified and enabled to live a holy life in the same manner.
* The only Gospel that God approves and blesses is the Gospel of the grace of God, justification by faith in Christ Jesus alone. We are not saved by making promises to God but by believing His promises.

**Why are Christians so susceptible to fall prey to false teachings?**

* Answer: Legalism
* Examples of such:
  + Recreation: Not playing Cards on Sunday or not playing cards at all, going to the movies, etc.
  + Attire: Not wearing certain clothes or make up

**Conclusion**

* Paul’s Gospel was centered in Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection—and not in Moses or the Law.
* The Judaizers were bringing the churches into bondage through the Law
* Christ’s death has delivered us from this present evil age and has given us a new standing in liberty (5:1ff). No wonder Paul adds, “To whom be glory for ever and ever!” (v. 5)
* May we never be confused as to the content and intent of the Gospel. The Gospel is not “follow Christ and imitate His life” but “receive Christ by faith and allow Him to set you free.” There is no place in the Gospel for a salvation that is attained by keeping the Law.

**NOTES**